



City of Amarillo
Environmental Health
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African Bees

**Facts
And
How to Stay Safe**

Unlike domestic honey bees, the Africanized bee is a wild bee that is not comfortable being around people or animals.

Africanized bees will defend hives with gusto. These bees are more likely to sense a threat at greater distances and become upset with less reason, and sting in greater numbers.

What to Do if a Person is Stung

1. Have someone stay with the victim to be sure that they do not have an allergic reaction.
2. Wash the site with soap and water.
3. Never squeeze the stinger or use tweezers. It will cause more venom to go into the skin and injure the muscle. The stinger can be removed using a four x four inch gauze wiped over the area or by scraping a fingernail over the area.
4. Apply ice to reduce the swelling.
5. Do not scratch the sting. This will cause the site to swell and itch more, and increase the chance of infection.



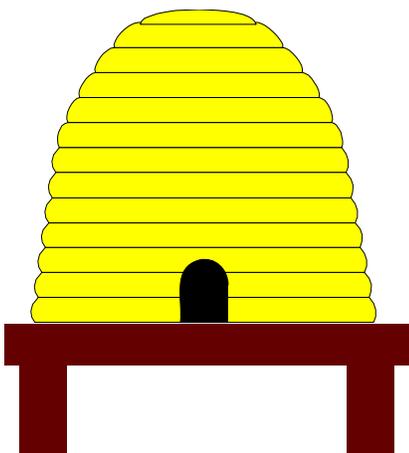
Bees swarm to establish new hives in the spring and fall.

It takes a laboratory test to identify domestic bees from African bees, so avoid all bees.

Allergic Reactions to Bee Stings

Allergic reactions to bee stings can be deadly. People with known allergies to insect stings should always carry an insect sting allergy kit and wear a medical ID bracelet or necklace stating their allergy. See a physician about getting either of these.

There are several signs of an allergic reaction to bee stings. Look for swelling that moves to other parts of the body, especially the face or neck. Check for difficulty in breathing, wheezing, dizziness or a drop in blood pressure. Get the person immediate medical care if any of these signs are present. It is normal for the area that has been stung to hurt, have a hard swollen lump, get red and itch. There are kits available to reduce the pain of an insect sting. They are a valuable addition to a first aid kit.



If you find a hive stay away and call a professional exterminator or beekeeper. If people are being stung, call 911 for assistance.

More Bee facts

Vibration and exhaust from mowers and other equipment can disturb the beehive and bees will respond by attacking

Be aware of culverts or drainage pipes that may harbor a colony

Dense vegetation may shield a hive